(b) the details of companies from where parts for MIG aircraft are procured;

(c) the details of companies which have carried out the repairs for MIG during the last five years; and

(d) the steps that the Ministry is taking to reduce the MIG crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The majority of aircraft spares are manufactured in various divisions of HAL within the country. The Russian and Ukrainian Government authorized agencies/aircraft manufacturers are also contracted for supply of aircraft parts.

(c) M/s HAL including its Joint Ventures and its subsidiaries M/s Rosoboronexport and RAC MIG of Russia, M/s Aerostar of Romania and M/s Spetstechnoexport of Ukrain have carried out repair of MIG series of aircraft and/or their engines.

(d) Every effort is taken to reduce accidents and improve flight safety. This is an ongoing process. Measures to enhance quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with HAL is being maintained with a view to reduce accidents. DRDO and other technical agenices are also being involved in all accident investigations to form a wider perspective to prevent accidents. Measures to reduce accidents on account of bird menace are also being implemented.

Recruitment of Kashmiri Pandit Youth

1566. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a special drive for recruitment of Kashmiri Pandit Youth in order to eradicate unemployment within this minority community; and

(b) when this drive is likely to commence and the number of Youth to be recruited in the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No special drives are conducted by the Armed Forces for the recruitment of any particular caste. Hence, no special drive for recruitment of Kashmiri Pandit youth is planned.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-China joint military exercise

1567. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China propose to hold joint military exercises as is being done with the United States; and

(b) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) India and China participated in a naval exercise on Search and Rescue (SAR) off Shanghai on November 14, 2003. The exercise was at a basic level. No other proposal for any further exercises between the Armed Forces of India and China is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) In view of answer to part (a) above, question does not arise.

Purchase of Laser Guidance Kits/Penetration Bombs

1568. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in his Report No. 7 of 2003 observed that the Ministry made purchases of laser guidance kits to penetration bombs at a higher price than the settled one;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) the additional expenditure incurred as a result thereof;

(d) whether due to mismatch between the kits and the bombs, the shelf life of the kits was reduced; and

(e) if so, the reasons for going on emergency purchases and action taken on the report?